

**Q: Who says?**

A: The California Integrated Waste Management Board sponsored two independent studies in an effort to better understand the effects of waste diversion and disposal on the State's economy. One study, entitled *The Economic Impact of Waste Disposal and Diversion in California*, was prepared by the University of California, Berkeley. The other, entitled *California Recycling Economic Information Study*, was prepared by the National Recycling Coalition for the U.S. EPA in association with R.W. Beck, Inc. Although their goals differed slightly, the studies came to similar conclusions...recycling is good for California's economy!



A new life for recycled plastic.

**Q: How can you learn more?**

A: Contact John Nuffer at (916) 341-6527 or [jnuffer@ciwmb.ca.gov](mailto:jnuffer@ciwmb.ca.gov) and visit our Web site at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov).

You can also download a synopsis of the above economic studies at:  
[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1008](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Publications/default.asp?pubid=1008).

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# Is Recycling Good for California's Economy?



Recycling is everyone's business.

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, Flex Your Power and visit [www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html).

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**Zero Waste—You Make It Happen!**

# Questions & Answers

**Q:** *Recycling is good for the environment, but is it really good for the economy too?*

A: Absolutely. Recycling a ton of “waste” has twice the economic impact of burying it in the ground. Sending waste on a short, one-way trip through the economy to a landfill creates 2.5 jobs for every 1,000 tons, whereas recycling this material through the economy again and again creates almost 5 jobs.

**Q:** *Is recycling just for a few alternative or “green” businesses?*

A: No. Recycling is big business, comparable to California’s movie and video industry. It is a mainstream industry of statewide importance, comprised of 5,300 establishments.



One person’s trash,  
another person’s treasure.

**Q:** *Has California’s 50 percent waste diversion mandate been good for the State’s economy?*

A: Yes. Recycling now accounts for 85,000 jobs, generates \$4 billion in salaries and wages, and produces \$10 billion worth of goods and services annually.



Plastics baled for processing.

**Q:** *Can recycling benefit local jurisdictions?*

A: Yes. In addition to creating more jobs and greater economic activity at the local level, recycling generates \$100 million per year in sales tax revenue. These funds help local governments pay for health and social services programs, transportation improvements, and public safety.

Products made from plastics.



**Q:** *Will less waste disposal and more recycling help or hurt California’s economy?*

A: More recycling will help California’s economy. Recycling one additional ton of waste will pay \$101 more in salaries and wages, produce \$275 more in goods and services, and generate \$135 more in sales than disposing of it in a landfill.



Manufacturing with recycled plastic.

**Q:** *How can waste diversion be increased?*

A: The key is to continue developing markets for recycled-content products made from the recyclable materials that otherwise would have been disposed. These markets will continue to develop as consumers learn about the economic and environmental benefits of “buying recycled” and have access to an ever-growing range of quality products. This will lead manufacturers to see the potential to sell recycled-content products, leading to increased demand for more and more recycled feedstock.